

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19966 01 OF 03 171348Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7646
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BANGKOK 19966

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT-PARA 2)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, NARC, SREF, ETRD, TH, AU
SUBJ: OPPOSITION LEADER HAYDEN'S VISIT TO THAILAND

1. SUMMARY: LABOUR PARTY LEADER W. G. HAYDEN VISITED THAILAND JULY 2-6 AS PART OF HIS MONTH LONG SWING THROUGH ASIA. DURING HIS VISIT, MR. HAYDEN MET WITH FONMIN UPPADIT PACHARIYANGKUN, DEPUTY PM SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD POL. MAJ. GEN. PHAO SARASIN, AND POL. MAJ. GEN. CHAWALIT YOTMANI, AND HAD DINNER WITH PM KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN. MR. HAYDEN DISCUSSED INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, NARCOTICS, ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ASEAN (PARTICULARLY THAILAND) AND AUSTRALIA, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, AND THAI-BURMESE RELATIONS. HE CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO HANDLE REFUGEES AND THEREBY TAKE MORE OF THE BURDEN OFF THAILAND. HE ALSO PUBLICLY SUPPORTED ZOPFAN (ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SE ASIA) AND VOICED RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO INCREASE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 19966 01 OF 03 171348Z

AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS IN THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM IN THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS MET WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF JULY 12 TO DISCUSS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION W. G. HAYDEN'S RECENTLY COMPLETED TRIP TO THAILAND. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF SAID THAT THIS WAS HAYDEN'S FIRST TOUR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AS LABOUR

PARTY LEADER ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN IN THE AREA BEFORE. HAYDEN TOLD THE THAIS THAT HE HAD PURPOSELY CHOSEN SE ASIA FOR HIS FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP AS LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY. HE WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE THAIS BUT ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD EVINCED SOME DISPLEASURE BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF HAYDEN'S TRIP AND BECAUSE OF THE UNFAVORABLE COMPARISONS BEING DRAWN BY THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC BETWEEN HIS TRIP AND PM FRAZER'S RECENT TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE. HAYDEN'S MAIN INTERESTS IN COMING TO THAILAND WERE REFUGEES AND NARCOTICS AND SECONDARILY ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

3. REFUGEES. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THAI PRESS HAD REPORTED OTHERWISE, HAYDEN WAS CAREFUL NOT TO COMMIT A FUTURE LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPTING MORE REFUGEES. SUCH A COMMITMENT COULD PROVE HAZARDOUS TO THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE LABOUR PARTY GIVEN CURRENT PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN AUSTRALIA. THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE ARE SHOWING INCREASING EVIDENCE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO ARE LANDING IN DARWIN. "AT PRESENT," HAYDEN TOLD THE PRESS JULY 5, "INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH RESOURCES CAN "QUEUE JUMP" BY SAILING TO AUSTRALIA WHILE OTHERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN CAMPS WILL NEVER GET OUT, WILL FETER AWAY FOREVER... UNLESS THERE IS INTERNATIONAL RELIEF."

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 19966 01 OF 03 171348Z

4. HAYDEN INDICATED, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, HIS SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUPS OF REFUGEES ACCEPTED BY AUSTRALIA, I.E. ACCEPTING MORE LAND CASES, PARTICULARLY CAMBODIANS, AND FEWER BOAT CASES.

5. THAIS WERE PLEASED WITH HAYDEN'S EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION FOR THAI EFFORTS REGARDING REFUGEES AND THE NECESSITY FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE REFUGEES. FOR EXAMPLE, HAYDEN TOLD THE PRESS, "I BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND (THAILAND) BETTER AS A RESULT OF SPEAKING WITH LEADING RTG SPOKESMEN HERE AND ALSO WITH OTHER PEOPLE VISITING THE REFUGEE CAMP AT SIKHIU. I'M NOT SURE HOW REPRESENTATIVE THAT CAMP IS, BUT THE CONDITIONS THERE INDICATE THAT THE PEOPLE ARE BEING RELATIVELY WELL-FED, CLOTHED, ACCOMMODATED, BUT THEY CAN'T BE KEPT THERE INDEFINITELY. OTHERWISE THE PLACE WILL BECOME A SEETHING BED OF DISCORD AND THAT'S TRUE OF ALL REFUGEE CAMPS. THE THAI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT AND THAT'S WHY IT ENDORSES A PROPOSAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN INTERNATIONAL COORDINATED PROGRAM FOR THE RELIEF AND

RESETTLEMENT OF THESE PEOPLE. IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION."

6. NARCOTICS. MR. HAYDEN, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, FAVORS STRENGTHENING THE AUSTRALIAN DRUG SUPPRESSION EFFORT IN THAILAND BY INCREASING FUNDING AND THE NUMBER OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THAILAND. HE ALSO SUPPORTS THAI EFFORTS TO SET UP A DRUG LABORATORY IN BANGKOK SO THAT ANALYSES OF SEIZED NARCOTICS CAN BE CARRIED OUT MORE QUICKLY.

7. DEPUTY PM SUNTHORN TOLD HAYDEN THAT THE RTG WOULD REQUEST CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION AMONGST THE HILL TRIBES--PARTICULARLY IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 19966 01 OF 03 171348Z

ORGANIZATION OF MARKETING, THE CREATION OF A REVOLVING FUND, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCERS' COOPERATIVES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19966 02 OF 03 150550Z
ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BANGKOK 19966

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y SECTION INFO (02 OF 03 VICE
02 OF 02)

HE AGREED WITH HAYDEN THAT THERE WAS ROOM FOR MORE INTER-

NATIONAL COOPERATION TO STOP TRAFFICKING, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGES IN A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION TO BRING ABOUT MORE EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE AND PROGRAMSM

8. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN UPPADIT, HAYDEN SAID THAT BURMESE PRESIDENT NE WIN HAD SAID RATHER FLATTERING THINGS ABOUT THE THAI GOVERNMENT--I.E., THAT NE WIN EXPECTED THE KRIANGSAK GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS, TO DO ITS UTMOST TO STAMP OUT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND THAT HE BELIEVED BURMA AND THAILAND WERE NOW WORKING MUCH MORE CLOSELY IN THE NORTH.

9. ZOPFAN. HAYDEN CAME OUT PUBLICLY IN SUPPORT OF ASEAN'S ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. HIS SUPPORT FOR ZOPFAN FOLLOWS NATURALLY, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, FROM LABOUR PARTY SUPPORT FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (LABOUR PARTY POLICY FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 19966 02 OF 03 150550Z

MORE THAN 20 YEARS). AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS THE MOST EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ZOPFAN BY A LABOUR PARTY LEADER.

10. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, HAYDEN SAID "A ZONE OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND NEUTRALITY" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA-- WE COMPLETELY SUPPORT THAT CONCEPT. WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. EARLIER WE PROMOTED THE IDEA, BACK IN THE 1960S, THAT IN

FACT THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE SHOULD BE A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. OUR POLICY HAS CONSISTENLTY BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS ACHIEVING PEACE AND A COMMITMENT TO SEEKING TO ESTABLISH ZONES OF PEACE, NEUTRALITY AND FRIENDSHIP."

11. EMONOMICS. HAYDEN SAID THAT AUSTRALIA MUST MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE, MOVING OUT OF LABOR-INTENSIVE AREAS TO INCREASE TRADING OPPORTUNITIES WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AS A WHOLE AND WITH THAILAND IN PARTICULAR.

12. INDOCHINA. MR. HAYDEN QUESTIONED FONMIN UPPADIT ON A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES IN ASEAN AND ON THE CURRENT BORDER CONFLICTS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM ON THE ONE HAND AND CAMBODIA AND THAILAND ON THE OTHER. UPPADIT SAID THAT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT SURE WHETHER VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ASEAN. HE SAID THAT ASEAN HAD TO BE MODEST, NOT SO AMBITIOUS AND THAT THE MEMBERS WANTED FIRST TO SOLIDIFY THE POSITION AMONG THEMSELVES AND STILL HAD A LOT TO DO IN THIS REGARD. UPPADIT SAID THAT INDOCHINESE MEMBERSHIP WAS STILL FAR AWAY. HE ADDED THAT THE ZOPFAN SUGGESTION WAS A GOOD ONE, AND THAT ANY COUNTRY WHICH WISHED TO JOIN SUCH A ZONE SHOULD ACCEPT THE ASEAN CONCEPT OF IT.

13. ON THE CURRENT BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THAILAND, UPPADIT NOTED THAT BOTH BANGKOK AND PHNOM PENH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 19966 02 OF 03 150550Z

BLAMED "THIRD PARTIES" FOR THE PROBLEMS ALONG THEIR COMMON BORDER. BY THIS TERM, BANGKOK MEANT COMMUNIST TERRORISTS TRAINED ON KAMPUCHEAN TERRITORY ("WE ARE QUITE SURE, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE KAMPUCHEAN GOVERNMENT") WHILE PHNOM PENH MEANT THE KHMER SEREI (KHMER RESISTANCE). UPPADIT SAID THAT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION; THE TWO SIDES COULD ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER THE THIRD PARTIES AND THEN NORMALIZE RELATIONS. "KAMPUCHEA WAS FIGHTING VIETNAM, SO WHY SHOULD IT WANT A SECOND FRONT WITH THAILAND? MOREOVER, BANGKOK WOULD LIKE KAMPUCHEA TO REMAIN AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, SERVING AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIETNAM."

14. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF GAVE EMBOFFS COPIES OF THE TRANSCRIPTS OF MR. HAYDEN'S TALKS WITH DEPUTY PM SUNTHORN AND FONMIN UPPADIT AND OF MR. HAYDEN'S PRESS CONFERENCE. EMBASSY WILL POUCH THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT, EA/ANP, AND EMBASSY CANBERRA.

15. COMMENT: EVEN THOUGH HAYDEN MAY BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ADVOCATING ADMISSION OF GREATER NUMBERS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES INTO AUSTRALIA, HIS TRIP TO THAILAND AND HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGIEPJSHOULD TRANSLATE INTO MORE LABOUR PARTY SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES.

16. HAYDEN'S CALL PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY FOR GREATER AUSTRALIAN EFFORTS IN THE NARCOTICS AREA SHOULD INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE GOA TO DO MORE IN THIS FIELD. AS AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF NOTED TO US, THIS IS ALSO AN AREA WHERE SOME POLITICAL MILEAGE IN AUSTRALIA CAN BE MADE. HAYDEN ALSO

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19966 03 OF 03 150443Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BANGKOK 19966

WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE APPARENT ABILITIES AND RELIABILITY
IN NARCOTICS MATTERS OF GENERAL'S PHAO AND CHAWALIT.

17. AT LEAST PARTLY BECAUSE OF CURRENT GOOD TIES WITH THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN CANBERRA, THE RTG WAS TARDY IN
ARRANGING A PROGRAM FOR HAYDEN. ULTIMATELY, ACCORDING TO
AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, PM KRIANGSAK REALIZED THAT HAYDEN COULD
WELL BECOME AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTER AND HE PERSONALLY .
DIRECTED THAT HIS VISIT BE REGARDED AS THAT OF A STATE
GUEST WITH APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL TALKS. THE THAIS AND
HAYDEN SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THE VISIT. APPARENTLY,
HAYDEN FOUND DEPUTY PM SUNTHORN A PARTICULARLY,
SATISFACTORY INTERLOCUTOR. O'DONOHUE

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